

Tom Horne
Superintendent

N.E.W.S

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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ARIZONA SCHOOLS CHIEF TOM HORNE ANNOUNCES A MAJOR INCREASE IN ADVANCED PLACEMENT PARTICIPATION 186% INCREASE IN LOW-INCOME STUDENTS IN ADVANCED PLACEMENT

PHOENIX (Thursday, January 15, 2009) – Arizona Schools Chief Tom Horne today announces major increases in Advanced Placement (AP) participation among low income students. The Arizona Department of Education completed a three year grant with 27 schools participating, resulting in a 186% percent increase in low income student participation in Advanced Placement courses and a 243% increase in Pre-Advanced Placement courses.

Horne stated: “Over a three year period the number of low income students taking AP exams increased 360% and the number of low-income students earning a passing score on these exams increased 319%. Research shows that passing an AP Exam is a strong predictor of college success.”

In addition, the Department also participates in the AP Test Fee Program, a federal grant providing financial assistance for low income students taking AP exams. From 2003-2008, the Advanced Placement Test Fee Program has led to a cumulative 300% increase in the number of AP exams taken in Arizona’s public schools by low-income students from 1,270 to 5,083.

Horne added: “I have been an advocate for increasing rigor in the classroom for all students, and we continue to see the benefits of high expectations and demanding excellence from students. The fact that more low-income students are participating and succeeding in Pre-Advanced Placement and Advanced Placement programs in Arizona shows our efforts in championing rigor are having a powerful effect.”

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